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Remarks

Claims 1-3, 7-14 and 16-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13 and 26 have been amended. Support for the amendment is found throughout the application, including page 11, lines 28-31 and the Examples.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9-10, 19-20, 22 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,625,875 to Frauenglass. Applicants have amended claims 1, 13 and 26 to recite that the curable mechanical fastener wherein the fastener "consists of a curable material." Frauenglass fails to disclose a fastener that consists of a curable material. Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, Claims 1-3, 7, 9-10, 13, 16 and 18-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Cohen (USPN 4,239,829) in view of Frauenglass or alternatively Frauenglass in view of Cohen. Claims 8 and 12 are additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Cohen and Frauenglass in view of Alexander (US 4,155,327) or Bachmann (US 3,814,156) or Pearce, Jr (US 3,469,490). Claim 11 is additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Cohen and Frauenglass in view of Modern Plastics Encyclopedia and "admitted prior art." Claims 20 and 28 are additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Cohen and Frauenglass in view of Crivello. Claims 14 and 18 are rejected as obvious in view of Melbye; and claim 17 is rejected as obvious in view of Lu or Appeldorn.

None of the additional references cited can cure the deficiencies of Frauenglass and Cohen as a reference. As Cohen does not teach making the fastener itself or its fastener elements from any curable material, Cohen cannot be combined with Frauenglass to arrive at the elements of Claim 1 as amended. None of the references teach or suggest fabricating a reclosable fastener completely or entirely of a curable material. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the arguments and amendments offered herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's grounds for objection and rejection are

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overcome and respectfully solicit reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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